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S09RS SGR No. 9 (W Policy)

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STUDENT SENATE

S09RS

SGR No. 9

By: SENATORS HANNA, BONVILLAIN, AND GAMMON

A RESOLUTION**TO URGE THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL “W” POLICY REVISIONS FOR ADOPTION BY THE STUDENT & FACULTY SENATES OF LSU.**

- PARAGRAPH 1:** WHEREAS, LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY HAS EXPRESSED AN ONGOING COMMITMENT TO BE RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY AS A TIER I RESEARCH UNIVERSITY AND STATE FLAGSHIP PUBLIC INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING; AND
- PARAGRAPH 2:** WHEREAS, VARIOUS TRENDS AND STATISTICS INDICATE THAT THE RETENTION AND 4-, 5- AND 6- YEAR GRADUATION RATES OF LSU STUDENTS HAVE IMPROVED MARKEDLY (APPROXIMATELY 2.3% ANNUALLY) SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FALL 2005 WITHDRAWAL POLICY; AND
- PARAGRAPH 3:** WHEREAS, UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS OF STUDY CAN OFTEN BE UNFORTUNATELY CHARACTERIZED BY TUMULTUOUS AND/OR UNFORESEEABLE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH REQUIRE REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS; AND
- PARAGRAPH 4:** WHEREAS, THE PRESENT W POLICY SUBSTANTIALLY LIMITS THE DISCRETION AND FORESIGHT OF STUDENTS WITH REGARD TO MAKING CONSISTENT ACADEMIC PROGRESS; AND
- PARAGRAPH 5:** WHEREAS, THE PRESENT W POLICY FURTHERMORE LIMITS THE UNIVERSITY’S SUCCESS AT ATTRACTING AND RETAINING HIGH-PERFORMING ENTERING STUDENTS BECAUSE OF POLICY DISCRIMINATIONS AGAINST FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS WITH MANY AP AND OTHER ENTRANCE COURSE CREDIT HOURS; AND
- PARAGRAPH 6:** WHEREAS, STUDENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS STAND UNITED IN RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR A MORE DISCRETION- AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY- BASED PROGRAM OF STUDENT COURSE WITHDRAWALS; AND
- PARAGRAPH 7:** WHEREAS, THE NEED TO FOSTER STUDENT DISCRETION MUST NECESSARILY BE TEMPERED AGAINST THE NEED TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE PERSONAL STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY; AND
- PARAGRAPH 8:** WHEREAS, THE W POLICY COMMITTEE HAS RESEARCHED AND EXAMINED THE ACADEMIC POLICIES OF TIER I AND REGIONAL PEER UNIVERSITIES FOR COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE; AND
- PARAGRAPH 9:** WHEREAS, THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA – A REGIONAL SEC AND TIER I PEER UNIVERSITY - HAS DEMONSTRATED NOTABLE SUCCESSES RESULTING FROM A PROGRESSIVE W POLICY; AND

PARAGRAPH 10: WHEREAS, IT IS THE RESOLVED CONCLUSION OF THE W POLICY COMMITTEE – OPERATING UNDER THE MANDATE OF THE STUDENT SENATE – TO PROMOTE THE ADOPTION OF A W POLICY THAT WILL ALLOW: THREE (3) W’S TO BE ALLOTTED FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS TO USE DURING THEIR FRESHMAN AND SOPHOMORE YEARS (0-60 HOURS); TWO (2) W’S TO BE ALLOTTED FOR USE DURING THEIR JUNIOR AND SENIOR YEARS (60-120 HOURS); AND ONE (1) W TO BE ALLOTTED FOR USE IN THE COMPLETION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE(S) (120+ HOURS), REGARDLESS OF HOW MANY YEARS BEYOND FOUR (4) MIGHT BE REQUIRED (THESE “3, 2, 1” ALLOTMENTS – WHICH EFFECTIVELY MIRROR THE SYSTEM IN PLACE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA – WOULD NOT BE TRANSFERABLE BETWEEN AFOREMENTIONED PERIODS; A MAXIMUM OF 5-6 W’S COULD BE EARNED BY A STUDENT THROUGHOUT HIS OR HER UNDERGRADUATE CAREER AT LSU, BUT THESE WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR USE WITH ENHANCED FLEXIBILITY, DISCRETION AND PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY);

PARAGRAPH 11: THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY AGRICULTURAL AND MECHANICAL COLLEGE URGES THAT THE STUDENT & FACULTY SENATES REVIEW AND CONSIDER THESE PROPOSED REVISIONS, WITH THE INTENT TO PROMOTE THE ADOPTION OF SUCH REVISIONS AS THE OFFICIAL INSTITUTIONAL WITHDRAWAL POLICY OF LSU; AND

PARAGRAPH 12: BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT A COPY OF THIS RESOLUTION BE SENT TO DR. RICHARD BENGSTON, CHAIRMAN OF THE FACULTY SENATE COMMITTEE FOR ADMISSIONS, SCHOLARSHIP AND HONORS, FOR REVIEW & DISTRIBUTION TO THE ASH COMMITTEE; DR. K.C. WHITE, ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR & DEAN OF STUDENTS; AND DR. STACIA HAYNIE, VICE PROVOST FOR ACADEMICS & PLANNING

PARAGRAPH 13: THIS BILL SHALL TAKE EFFECT UPON PASSAGE BY A MAJORITY (1/2) VOTE OF THE LSU STUDENT SENATE AND SIGNATURE BY THE PRESIDENT, UPON LAPSE OF TIME FOR PRESIDENTIAL ACTION, OR IF VETOED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY APPROVED BY THE SENATE, ON THE DATE OF SUCH APPROVAL.

APPROVED:

BEN CLARK
STUDENT SENATE SPEAKER

J. COLORADO ROBERTSON
STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

DATE_____

DATE_____